

1 Peter 2:1-12 (ESV)

¹ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

Wow this is some list. Last sermon from 1 Peter you were told to be holy. This week Peter is giving you ways to be holy. Notice the last part of Chapter 1 verse 25. “And this is the word that was preached to you.” In other words they knew how to be holy and Peter is reiterating it.

Sounds just like us, we know. I mean we know better than the people in 1 Peter. We have the full council of God – the bible. Peter was just writing his bit of it.

So when he writes

¹ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.

They already know it

BUT

They need to be reminded.

We already know it

BUT

we need to be reminded.

Look where Peter takes us next:

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—

In other words “lap it up”

One of the hardest things I find in the bible is that we need to be reminded to “LONG” for the spiritual milk. We need to be reminded how we should react to knowledge of God.

I must admit that I am a bit perplexed at the word salvation being in there. It’s not in the greek text and links back in the previous chapter seem a bit vague. But that’s for me to work out.

The KJV translates it.

1Pe 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: Which I get but

The CEV translates it.

Pe 2:2 Be like newborn babies who are thirsty for the pure spiritual milk that will help you grow and be saved.

For it to be translated in a couple of translations there must be a reason that I can’t see. For me the passage is about spiritually growing, spiritual development.

³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Verse 3 kind of points out we will want to grow if we have “Tasted” what God has for us.

I think here is a huge point for us.

How are our taste buds?

Are we still tasting that God is good?

Or have our taste buds gone off?

Now from here we get to a huge point. Peter starts by pointing out the foundational aspect of our relationship to Jesus.

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,

The stone concept here is like a foundation stone. What everything else is measured from and what everything else relies on.

And Peter points out Jesus is the foundation and guess what we are the next lot of bricks!

⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

I want to look at this verse for a few minutes.

We are living stones. Sorry but I get images in my mind and my thoughts rapidly ran away and my imagination sees little rocks with arms sticking out.

Kind of like where Jesus says the rocks will cry out in worship!!! Imagine little charismatic rocks!!!!!!

While my imagination may amuse you, the use of these rocks is in building. We are stones to be built onto Jesus. Rocks to be built into a building and that building is to be used to do what? Offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus.

We are designed to sacrifice to God.

If we have tasted the Goodness of God we are designed to offer spiritual sacrifices.

I have to ask the question:

How is your sacrificing going?

Done any lately?

If you haven't my assumption is you'll be disappointed with life.

You are designed to sacrifice for God.

Peter puts the perspective on this:

⁶ For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

It's a quote.

Isaiah 28:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'

Notice it talks about Zion. Zion is the idiom for the Kingdom of God.

So we could retranslate it.

"Behold, I am laying in the kingdom of God a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

The cornerstone is: derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.

So we could retranslate this:

"Behold, I am laying in the kingdom of God a stone, a the stone determining everything, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Put to shame refers to the loss of honour that goes with being wrong.

So retranslating that again.

“Behold, I am laying in the kingdom of God a stone, a the stone determining everything, chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not lose honour because we aren’t wrong”

This is interesting.

At the moment our society, the political push and the media are trying to shame Christians because of our belief systems.

We are called bigots if we disagree about same sex marriage, we are called fundamentalist idiots if we share an different opinion on religious freedom, we are called hypocrites if we make a small mistake, the list goes on.

Society wants to bring us down at the moment. We are not allowed an opinion like everyone else.

BUT THIS VERSE IS OURS!!!!!!

WE WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME!

Please can someone say hallelujah!!!!!!!!!!

We had a discussion about this one Tuesday Night and the way forward to combat this is to not combat, but to keep doing good.

While the Christian community is being criticised we are doing charity, we are looking after orphans and widows, we are caring for the homeless and for refugees, we show care and concern in our communities.

We are embarrassing them!!! And it is our job to, but with love.

Look at the next verse:::::

⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

The Jesus message, the Christian lifestyle causes them problems. They don’t get it, so we’ll keep doing it in the hope they will get it and join us. Mate, **We are called to be good!!!!**

I love this next verse.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Chosen, royal priesthood, holy, a possession of God. That’s us. Oh yeh. That is how valuable we are to God. I think we forget this bit we are God’s! We are chosen, we are royal, we are his workers (priests) we are Holy, we are a nation, we are HIS!

Do we get excited about that. It is talking about us right here on this Sunday morning at Bathurst Baptist Church – its US!

It goes on and I get the feeling Peter is getting carried away here in worship and writing.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

God's people.

That's us. Slandered, criticised, laughed at, misunderstood but we are God's people.

And if we are God's people we do what?

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Look after our souls. Notice that verse comes before this verse.

¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Stay honourable, keep integrity don't stoop to their level. Keep up the good deeds.